

512 vary much from month to month for there are few seasonal changes
221 at this time of the year. As the river falls it is possible to fish in
226 lagoons and shallows and to bathe on its sandy bed. Then the lagoons
dry up. When the river rises fish swim in the weeds and rushes and
515 along some streams they are easily speared from the banks. The
banks of the Sobat are too steep for this purpose. There are no
longer shallows and bathing is a hasty dip for there is danger from
crocodiles. The grazing grounds are changed from time to time as
233 they become exhausted and as streams and lagoons dry up. At
137 Yakwac there was succulent pasturage only where marsh plants still
retained their moisture at the river end of lagoons. The people are
still in camp when the first rains fall at the end of April or early in
May and then there is everywhere an abundance of pasturage. The
brown bush becomes green and the baked fissured earth a sodden
mire. Dry lagoons become inland flowing streams. The scorching
sun is clouded.

136 On the Sobat we guessed that the first rains had fallen inland by
[132] the migration of wild animals from its banks. Giraffe now left us for
inland pastures where they would not have to face death every time
they approached the river. Other animals likewise moved southwards,
[224] even the gazelle. On the northern bank, however, buffaloes still came
to the river to drink and were attacked by hungry Nuer. Animals
312 and men must obey the seasons and when there is no water except
in inland lakes and lagoons, men, cattle, and wild beasts must drink at
the same places. One can hear them at night cautiously coming
to the pools to drink. When the rains come all leave for new pastures.

221 In May one knows that the move back to the wet season villages
512 will shortly take place not only by cloudy skies and movements of
game, but also by camp activities. The women are the first to leave
322 camp and one meets them along paths, carrying their household goods
233 in rectangular cane baskets. Youths leave camp early in the morning
283 to cut stakes, generally of thornwood (*biwan*) and they spend a large
513 part of the day shaping them into tethering pegs. They also twist
221 new cord. The weather being cooler people do not feel so keenly the
need to sleep towards noon. Everyone is becoming restless and